Mr. Average Finally Goes For Nixon

© 1972 Chicago Sun-Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After months of agonizing and leaning from one side of undecided to the other, Richard J. Johnson of Rolling Meadows, Ill., finally voted for President Nixon.

Johnson, selected by National Public Television to be Mr. Average Voter, said it was the first time in many years that he voted for a Republican presidential candidate.

"I appreciate the sincerity and dedication of the man (Senator George S. McGovern)." said Johnson. "I just thought, if McGovern got elected, he would have a more difficult getting his program through. He doesn't have as much support for his ideas.

"I admit there are some things I wish Nixon would do that McGovern is for, but on balance Nixon has done a commendable job."

Principally, he said, he hopes that Mr. Nixon will end the Vietnam war quickly.

Selected on the basis of his income and his neighborhood to represent the views of middle-income voters, Johnson had twice been the subject of National Public Television programs, in January and September. He was undecided, but leaning to Mr. Nixon, on both occasions as late as Monday evening, he still was "undecided."

Dick Johnson
from the Des Moines, Iowa
Newspaper